

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2104

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PO, MZ

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE COMMUNIQUE ON ALLEGED MASSACRES

REF: (A) LISBON 3075; (B) LOURENCO MARQUES A-124; (C) LOURENCO
MARQUES 559; (D) LOURENCO MARQUES A-19

SUMMARY: SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS PROBING INTO INVESTIGATION OF
TROOP ILL-CONDUCT REPORTED BY PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT; PORTU-
GUESE AUTHORITIES MAY BE COMING CLOSER TO FINDING OUT WHAT,
IF ANYTHING, REALLY HAPPENED. END SUMMARY.

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QM SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS AUGUST 20-21 REPORTS FROM LISBON THAT ONGOING INVESTIGATION REFERRED TO IN PORTUGUESE COMMUNIQUE (REF A) IS OF INCIDENT AT CHOWALA (OR SHOWALA), A HAMLET 25 KM. FROM TETE WHERE HUMAN SKULLS AND OTHER REMAINS, AND BURNED OUT HUTS, ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN FOUND BY PORTUGUESE LEGAL OFFICERS INVESTIGATING MASSACRE ALLEGATIONS. ACCORDING JOHANNESBURG STAR, CHOWALA IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN FRELIMO HIDEOUT, AND PAPERS SPECULATE THAT FRELIMO MAY HAVE USED VILLAGERS AS HUMAN SHIELD WHEN ATTACKED BY PORTUGUESE TROOPS.

2. WE UNABLE LOCATE CHOWALA ON MAPS OR IN GAZETTEERS, BUT IT IS PRESUMABLY IDENTICAL WITH THE CHAWOLA CITED BY FATHER HASTINGS AND OTHERS IN AMENDED VERSIONS OF WIRIYAMU ACCUSATION, BUT WHICH ON-THE-SPOT JOURNALISTS REPORTED THEMSELVES UNABLE TO LOCATE.

3. MOST RECENT JOURNALISTIC VERSIONS (E.G. REF B) OF MASSACRE ALLEGATIONS INCLUDE THREE HAMLETS -- WIRIYAMU (WILIAMO), JOAO, AND CHAWOLA -- IN WHICH INCIDENTS ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE OCCURRED. AUGUST 22 RAND DAILY MAIL CLAIMS "ANTONIO", WHO HAD BEEN CITED AS ONE OF FEW EYEWITNESSES FROM CHAWOLA (REF C) WAS TAKEN FROM HIS HOUSE TWO WEEKS AGO BY A BURGOS PRIEST NAMED JOSE ANTONIO SANGALO, AND HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE; ARTICLE SUGGESTS A VATICAN PLAN TO SMUGGLE HIM OUT OF MOZAMBIQUE. SAME ISSUE REPORTS THAT AFRICAN SECURITY POLICEMAN NAMED "CHICO" -- PRESUMABLY IDENTICAL WITH THE "CHICO CACHAVI" CITED IN HASTINGS REPORT AS A LEADER OF MASSACRE -- HAS BEEN KILLED IN A GRENADE ATTACK.

4. PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMAND SPOKESMAN WAS UNABLE PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ON PORTUGUESE INVESTIGATION AND INDEED SPECULATED THAT COMMUNIQUE MUST REFER TO THE SINGLE CONFIRMED CASE OF "BAD BEHAVIOR" BY PORTUGUESE TROOPS IN TETE REFERRED TO IN HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 1/73 OF LAST JANUARY (REF B). HOWEVER GENERAL KAULZA DE ARRIAGA TOLD LONDON TIMES REPORTER MICHAEL KNIPE, IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS JULY 30, THAT THIS INCIDENT INVOLVED KILLING OF FOUR INDIVIDUALS NEAR ZOBUE ON MALAWI FRONTIER. GENERAL ALSO TOLD KNIPE THAT INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN MADE, PROBABLY IN JANUARY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF ALLEGED TROOP MISCONDUCT IN AREA 24 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF TETE, BUT THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN DISCOVERED AND INVESTIGATION "OBVIOUSLY" WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC.

5. MEANWHILE, SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS HAS QUOTED YORKSHIRE POST STORY, PUBLISHED ABOUT AUGUST 14, IN WHICH THAT PAPER'S BONN CORRESPONDENT ALEX NEVILLE CLAIMS TO HAVE LEARNED THROUGH UNDERGROUND SOURCES THAT WIRIYAMU ACCUSATIONS WERE DREAMED UP

BY THE CZECH INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, AT SOVIET INSTIGATION,
IN ORDER KEEP UP HEAT AGAINST WEST FOLLOWING END OF VIETNAM
WAR. ACCORDING THIS STORY, CHOICE OF NAME "WIRIYAMU" WAS
RESULT OF GARBLE IN INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM FRELIMO, AND
DEATH TOLL OF 400 INSISTED UPON BY RUSSIANS IN ORDER EQUAL
THAT OF MY-LAI INCIDENT IN VIETNAM.

6. COMMENT: IT SEEMS THAT THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES, AT
ANY RATE, MAY BE COMING CLOSER TO FINDING OUT THE REAL FACTS
ABOUT THE ALLEGED MASSACRES SOUTH OF TETE LAST DECEMBER.
WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, THEY WILL TAKE AS A RESULT, OR WHAT
PUBLICITY THEY WILL GIVE THEIR FINDINGS (NONE OF RECENT
STORIES HAVE BEEN MENTIONED BY LOCAL PRESS, BUT SOUTH AFRICAN
PAPERS ARE FREELY AVAILABLE), REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THE NOTION
THAT THE WHOLE AFFAIR IS PIECE OF COMMUNIST FAKERY SEEMS
IMPROBABLE. UNLESS BURGOS PRIESTS ARE KNOWING COMMUNIST AGENTS,
WHICH DESPITE THEIR GENERALLY LEFTIST ORIENTATION SEEMS
UNLIKELY, LOGISTICS OF PLANTING STORY CONVINCINGLY WOULD
SEEM TO BE VERY DIFFICULT.
MACDOUGALL

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